

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 24, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 20, 2003

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 5**

**Introduced by Senator Karnette  
(Coauthors: Senators Romero and Sher)**

December 2, 2002

An act to add Section 60605.3 to the Education Code, relating to curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 5, as amended, Karnette. Curriculum: foreign languages.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to design and implement a program that includes statewide academically rigorous content and performance standards, as specified. Existing law establishes deadlines by which the State Board of Education must adopt statewide academically rigorous content standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science, science, physical education, and visual and performing arts.

This bill would require the State Department of Education, on or before ~~January 1, 2006~~ *June 1, 2009*, to adopt content standards for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The bill would ~~authorize school districts to use the content standards to develop language programs and would require the department, upon the adoption of the standards, to provide publishers of instructional materials with an outline of foreign language content expectations~~ *provide that these standards are intended to guide schools that offer programs of instruction in languages other*

*than English. The bill would require these standards to support the goal of providing programs of instruction in languages other than English as early as feasible, and to including a description of the skills to be attained at each grade level and alignment of the course content with the entrance requirements of the California State University and the University of California.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Learning a second language enhances a pupil's academic
- 4 skills by increasing reading, writing, and mathematics abilities,
- 5 thereby improving scores on verbal and nonverbal performance
- 6 tests.
- 7 (b) Requiring all pupils to learn a second language helps pupils
- 8 from different backgrounds to interact with each other and build
- 9 self-esteem.
- 10 (c) All pupils can and should be proficient in at least one
- 11 language in addition to English.
- 12 (d) The University of California and the California State
- 13 University both require a minimum of two years of language study
- 14 as part of their admission criteria.
- 15 (e) To be most effective in today's global society, a person must
- 16 have a knowledge of other cultures and the ability to interact with
- 17 people from different cultures in both California and throughout
- 18 the world.
- 19 (f) More than 70 federal agencies and numerous state agencies
- 20 desire to hire persons who are fluent in languages other than
- 21 English, and shortages in bilingual personnel have adversely
- 22 affected national and state operations and security.
- 23 (g) The court system maintains a pool of qualified interpreters
- 24 and translators to carry out its legal duties, and the state and federal
- 25 penal systems depend on a bilingual workforce to maintain an
- 26 orderly environment.
- 27 (h) Language competence is critical to the United States'
- 28 defense needs as evidenced by the fact that in 2002, the army
- 29 designated 15,000 positions as requiring language proficiency in



1 at least one of 62 languages, the Department of State required 29  
2 percent of its foreign service positions to have some level of  
3 language proficiency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
4 employed 1,792 special agents with language skills in more than  
5 40 languages.

6 (i) As California corporations continue to establish production  
7 facilities in developing world countries, there is an increasing need  
8 for linguistic competence and cultural understanding in languages  
9 other than English.

10 (j) For all of these reasons, it is imperative that pupils begin  
11 learning a language other than English at the earliest age possible.

12 (k) *This act is intended to correlate the curriculum framework,*  
13 *which is scheduled for adoption by June 1, 2009, with the content*  
14 *standards adopted pursuant to this section.*

15 SEC. 2. Section 60605.3 is added to the Education Code, to  
16 read:

17 60605.3. (a) On or before ~~January 1, 2006~~ *June 1, 2009*, the  
18 State Board of Education shall adopt content standards, pursuant  
19 to recommendations developed by the Superintendent of Public  
20 Instruction, for teaching foreign languages in kindergarten and  
21 grades 1 to 12, inclusive. ~~The content standards are intended to~~  
22 ~~provide a framework for programs that a school may offer in the~~  
23 ~~instruction of languages other than English.~~

24 (b) The content standards shall ~~include~~ *support the goals of*  
25 *Section 51212 and subdivision (c) of Section 51220 by including*  
26 all of the following:

27 (1) A summary of the language goals ~~to be achieved at each~~  
28 ~~grade level, beginning with kindergarten~~ *which recognizes that*  
29 *instruction may begin in elementary or secondary school.*

30 (2) A description of individual language skills that should be  
31 taught and attained at each level.

32 ~~(3) Expectations for pupil performance based on the language~~  
33 ~~performance levels established by the Language Learning~~  
34 ~~Continuum set forth in the Foreign Language Framework adopted~~  
35 ~~by the State Board of Education in May 2001.~~

36 ~~(4)~~

37 (3) Course content that is aligned with findings from research  
38 on second language acquisition and education.

1     (4) *Course content that is aligned with the admission*  
2     *requirements for the California State University and the University*  
3     *of California.*

4     (c) The content standards may be used by school districts to  
5     develop language programs and course assessments *but are not*  
6     *mandatory.*

7     ~~(d) Upon adoption of the content standards, the State~~  
8     ~~Department of Education shall provide publishers of instructional~~  
9     ~~materials with an outline of the language content expectations.~~

